

What is claimed is:

1. A digital work recorded on computer readable media, said digital work comprising:

a content element including content data stored in an addressable memory to be utilized by an end user;

a content usage rights element associated with said content element and including data specifying usage rights for said content element; and

a flag element associated with said content element and having memory registers for saving flags, said memory registers corresponding to memory addresses of the addressable memory.

2. A digital work as recited in claim 1, further comprising, a flag usage rights element associated with said flag element and including data specifying rights for manipulating said flag element.

3. A digital work as recited in claim 1, wherein said flag element has flags stored therein at selected memory registers to demarcate a desired portion of said content data stored in memory addresses corresponding to the selected memory registers.

4. A digital work as recited in claim 3, wherein said flags comprise start flags and end flags to respectively indicate the beginning and end of said desired portion of said content data.

5. A digital work as recited in claim 1, wherein said flag element has a flag stored therein at a selected memory register and said flag comprises links to additional content data.

6. A digital work as recited in claim 1, wherein said content element is stored on a first computer readable medium and said flag element is stored on a second computer readable medium.

7. A digital work as recited in claim 6, wherein said first computer readable medium is on a first device and said second computer readable medium is on a second device and wherein said first device and said second device are operatively coupled by a communication channel.

8. A digital work as recited in claim 7, wherein said communication channel comprises the Internet.

9. A digital work as recited in claim 7, wherein said flags are stored in selected registers to demarcate a portion of said content data that has been downloaded to said first device.

10. A digital work as recited in claim 1, wherein said content element is a laboratory notebook.

11. A digital work as recited in claim 3, wherein said content usage rights element specifies a first set of usage rights for the desired portion and a second set of usage rights for other portions.

12. A method of marking portions of content data of a digital work stored in addressable memory comprising;

associating a flag element with the content data, the flag element having memory registers for saving demarcation flags, said registers corresponding to memory addresses of the addressable memory;

selecting a desired portion of said content to be marked; and

manipulating the flag element to place a flag in a memory register corresponding to a memory address of the desired portion of the content.

13. A method as recited in claim 12, further comprising associating a flag usage rights element with the flag element, the flag usage rights element including data specifying rights for said manipulating step.

14. A method as recited in claim 12, wherein said manipulating step comprises storing flags in the flag element at selected memory registers to demarcate the desired portion of said content data.

15. A method as recited in claim 14, wherein said manipulating step comprises storing start flags and end flags in the flag element to respectively indicate the beginning and end of the desired portions of the content data.

16. A method as recited in claim 12, wherein manipulating step comprises storing flags having links to additional content data.

17. A method as recited in claim 12, wherein said content element is stored on a first computer readable medium and said flag element is stored on a second computer readable medium.

18. A method as recited in claim 17, wherein the first computer readable medium is on a first device and the second computer readable medium is on a second device and wherein the first device and the second device are operatively coupled by a communication channel.

19. A method as recited in claim 18, wherein said communication channel comprises the Internet.

20. A method as recited in claim 18, wherein said manipulating step comprises storing flags in memory registers to demarcate a portion of said content that has been downloaded to said first device.

21. A method as recited in claim 14, further processing the desired portions.

22. A method as recited in claim 21, wherein said processing step comprises filtering the desired portion.

23. A method as recited in claim 21, wherein said processing step comprises compressing the desired portion.

24. A method as recited in claim 21, wherein said processing step comprises culling the desired portion from the content data and compiling a summary of the content data with the desired portion.

25. A method as recited in claim 24, wherein said compiling step is accomplished with an artificial intelligence algorithm.

26. A method as recited in claim 21, further comprising rendering the content data and wherein said processing step comprises rendering the desired portions in a manner different from other portions of the content data.

27. A method for distributing digital works comprising:

receiving a request for downloading digital content data;

associating a flag element with the content data, the flag element having memory registers for saving demarcation flags, said registers corresponding to memory addresses of the addressable memory;

downloading a portion of the content data; and

manipulating the flag element to place a flag in a memory register corresponding to a memory address indicating the downloaded portion of the content.

